

EXHIBIT 3

J.K. Trotter, “What is Chuck Johnson, and Why?
The Web’s Worst Journalist, Explained,”
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What Is Chuck Johnson, and Why? The Web's Worst Journalist, Explained



J.K. Trotter

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If you were active on social media this weekend, you may have noticed frequent references to a website called “GotNews” and a writer named Charles C. Johnson. Often these references took the form of **tweets like these**:



chris randle

@randlechris

Follow

hey @twitter @Support can you ban @ChuckCJohnson forever and prevent him from using your website to harass more people

11:01 AM - 7 Dec 2014

19 31



Connor Goldsmith

@dreamoforgonon

Follow

Seriously, @support @twitter etc, @chuckcjohnson must go. Harassment, stalking, releasing personal information to endanger people, etc.

10:39 AM - 7 Dec 2014

20 16



turkey lurker

@rachellmillman

Follow

hey @support @twitter please perma ban @chuckcjohnson for repeated harassment and releasing of personal information

10:38 AM - 7 Dec 2014

114 159

Who is @ChuckCJohnson, and why do people want him banned from Twitter? This guide is for the lucky few who haven't caught up on the story of Charles C. Johnson, and are curious why so many people, particularly in the mainstream media, despise him.

Who is Charles C. Johnson?

Johnson is a California-based 26-year-old independent journalist and proprietor of GotNews.com, where he publishes the majority of his articles. According to his **online biography**, he's written for a litany of conservative publications in the past, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Weekly Standard*, and *The New York Sun*. He is also the author of **two books**, one of which is enthusiastically blurb-ed by Texas Senator Ted Cruz.

He's a conservative journalist?

Not exactly. Johnson rejects being labeled as "conservative," and **describes himself** instead as "a radical" and "a revolutionary." He frequently feuds with other conservative journalists. In a **tweet** published earlier this month, Johnson wrote: "I'm going to enthusiastically burn down the entire political establishment for fun. It's time someone did."

So he's a crazy conservative journalist?

Sort of. Johnson is well-known for **ending the career** of a foreign policy analyst named Elizabeth O'Bagy, who among other things misrepresented her academic credentials to her employer, The Institute for the Study of War. More recently, he's drawn attention for **his (flawed) reporting** in the Senate Republican primary race in Mississippi.

If he's just another crazy conservative journalist, why has he become so internet-famous?

Johnson is equally well-known for publishing stories that fall apart under the slightest scrutiny. The list of Johnson stories that have been proven wrong is long, but his greatest hits include:

- **Falsely accusing** a *New York Times* reporter of secretly posing for *Playgirl* (after that reporter, David D. Kirkpatrick, published a story that deflated a few Benghazi conspiracy theories).
- Erroneously reporting that former Newark mayor Cory Booker **didn't actually reside** in Newark.
- Contributing reporting to the Daily Caller's **infamous story** about New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez allegedly soliciting prostitutes in the Dominican Republic. The story turned out to be **a complete fabrication**, and may have even been **planted** by the Cuban government.

He also thinks Obama is gay.

What?

Behold:

I know we aren't supposed to talk about this but Obama is clearly gay, guys.
Not that there's anything wrong with that.

— Charles C. Johnson (@ChuckCJohnson) **December 3, 2014**

Why did Obama have an openly gay activist man as his mentor at Occidental? Why did he travel with gay man in Pakistan?

— Charles C. Johnson (@ChuckCJohnson) **December 3, 2014**

Why did Obama live with several openly gay men if he's not gay? Why can't we find any women who had sex with OBAMA & will talk? (Fixed it!)

— Charles C. Johnson (@ChuckCJohnson) December 3, 2014

(He had **previously tweeted**: “Why can’t we find any women who have had sex with me & will talk?”)

Once you accept the premise that Obama is gay a lot of things start to make sense.

— Charles C. Johnson (@ChuckCJohnson) December 3, 2014

Note how closed minded my critics are tonight. They haven't wondered if maybe, just maybe, Obama is gay. And I'm the one that's a bigot?

— Charles C. Johnson (@ChuckCJohnson) December 3, 2014

Johnson seems pretty clearly incompetent. But why do people *loathe*

him?

Johnson's work for larger news organizations is mostly inept rubbish. But the stuff he publishes on GotNews.com tends to be intensely hateful—bizarre, non-sequitur, victim-attacking bile directly from, and directly for, the online right-wing's id.

Johnson likes to publish articles, for example, insinuating that victims of police violence—particularly black victims—pretty much had it coming. Earlier this year, he collected **screenshots** of murdered teenager Michael Brown's Instagram account. "Brown's Instagram account also shows a violent streak that may help explain what led to a violent confrontation with Police officer Darren Wilson," Johnson wrote. In other words, Brown deserved to die.

He gave a similar treatment to a pregnant woman named Dornella Connors, who was blinded by a bean bag fired by police officers in Ferguson, Mo. to quell protestors. Since Connors apparently lacked a criminal record, Johnson went after her boyfriend, Deangelas Lee, in **an article** titled "BREAKING: Blinded Pregnant Ferguson Protestor's Boyfriend Tried Killing Cops With Car, Is Criminal." To drive the point home, Johnson embedded a video of Lee rapping.

That's really racist.

Yes. And these articles also put a lie to Johnson's self-spun image as a radical patriot fighting against the political establishment. In article after article, he props up the interests of one of the most **powerful political lobbies** in the country: the police.

It's not just Johnson's attitude toward people of color who've been victimized by

cops. Johnson in general likes to **retaliate against certain individuals** by publishing their personal information (a.k.a. doxxing). A recent example: After the *New York Times* published a copy of former Ferguson cop Darren Wilson's marriage certificate, and named the street on which he used to live, Johnson published the home addresses—down to the house and apartment numbers—of the pair of reporters who authored the *Times* story. The headline read: “Why Can't We Publish Addresses Of *New York Times* Reporters?”

Is that why people want Twitter to permanently ban him?

The most recent calls for Johnson to be banned from Twitter arose from Johnson's decision to publish what he claims is the full name of “Jackie,” the woman who spoke to *Rolling Stone* about being raped at a U.V.A. fraternity in 2012. It's not yet clear whether the name Johnson published is “Jackie's” real name. But Johnson was so sure that Jackie lied about being raped that he began issuing threats on Twitter to publish more information about her:

I'm giving Jackie until later tonight to tell the truth and then I'm going to start revealing everything about her past.

— Charles C. Johnson (@ChuckCJohnson) **December 7, 2014**

Last night, he attempted to deliver on that promise by publishing a picture of a woman—who may or may not be Jackie—“proudly displaying a sign suggesting yet another rape” at a 2011 SlutWalk rally. Within hours of publication, Johnson updated the post to clarify that he didn't actually know whether the woman in

the photo was actually Jackie—thereby retracting the claim that Jackie “cried rape BEFORE #UVAHoax.” Still, he later promised even *more* news about Jackie:

Thank you to everyone who corrected me. Now I'm going to break more news that blows this wide open, okay?

— Charles C. Johnson (@ChuckCJohnson) December 9, 2014

That’s all really fucked up.

Yes, it is.

I’m having difficulty understanding why he’s writing this stuff.

There are a number of theories. Many think he simply craves attention; outspoken conservatives regularly accuse him of being insane. Here’s an email Sean Davis of The Federalist sent Johnson earlier this month:

This is how the well fed right responds to you questioning their 'reporting' on #EricGarner & fake chokehold story. pic.twitter.com/6MWQEaqKfv

— Charles C. Johnson (@ChuckCJohnson) December 4, 2014

Far more noteworthy than any of Johnson's journalism stunts, however, is his intellectual pedigree.

What do you mean?

Johnson isn't really a marginal or peripheral figure in mainstream conservatism, as his critics often make him out to be. Here's **his auto-biography**:

He has written for The Wall Street Journal, The New York Post, The Los Angeles Times, The New Criterion, The American Spectator, The Claremont Review of Books, City Journal, Reason.com, National Review Online, Tablet Magazine, The Weekly Standard, Powerline, and The New York Sun.

His work has been featured on Real Clear Politics, the Drudge Report, Hotair.com, The Blaze, Breitbart.com, Rush Limbaugh's Show, and the Wall Street Journal's Best of the Web. He has been on Fox News with Megyn Kelly, Sean Hannity, and Lou Dobbs and numerous radio programs, including Rush Limbaugh, Larry Elder, John Batchelor, Rusty Humphries, Dennis Prager, Larry Elder, Mark Levin, and Larry Kudlow. [...]

Charles has worked for Alan M. Dershowitz at Harvard Law School, Seth Lipsky at the New York Sun, Carl Schramm at the Kauffman Foundation, and Charles Kesler at the Claremont Review of Books.

The outlets and individuals named here aren't InfoWars or Alex Jones. Indeed, Johnson's biography describes someone raised by the intellectual right—his Calvin Coolidge biography was enthusiastically **endorsed by John Yoo**—and offered a platform by some of the most influential conservative publications.

Why does that matter?

It is certainly true that Johnson has alienated a wide swath of prominent conservatives with his tactics. But it's disingenuous to argue that he's disconnected from, or doesn't represent, the main threads of conservative politics. (The same day Johnson published Jackie's full name, *National Review* writer Kevin D. Williamson **wrote an essay** titled "We Should Name Rape Accusers.") So the next time Johnson shifts the conservative movement's bed, for whatever reason, it's important to remember exactly where he came from.

Photo credit: **YouTube**

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